

CALFED Long-Term Governance

The CALFED Commission should retain a transparent governance and decision-making process. All programs should have a balanced and parallel overview that will further develop the linkages between the programs and their projects. With this balance, the Commission will be able to fully prioritize and define the cumulative impacts within the different geographic areas.

As part of parallel/cumulative review by the Commission, CMARP's cumulative review will be crucial. There are numerous cases in California's water history where it is known that a lack of community support can lead to a failed project. Prior to the actual implementation, it is imperative to have local input as the project is being developed, so that any potential adverse impacts on a community can be addressed. The two greatest indicators of community impacts are the gains or losses in both the employment and local tax base. The ERP and the Adaptive Management Strategy are two areas where the latter questions have at least been partially addressed. Due to the linkages between programs and program elements, these precautionary measures need to be included in all Programs, especially the Water Transfers Program, Water Quality Program(s), Water Storage and Water Use Efficiency. In Principle 9: Public Involvement: "... The Commission should support involvement in the Program at a community-based level". It is our belief that "Local Workgroups" by specific geographic areas within the solution area holds the greatest potential for efficient public participation and the review of cumulative project impacts.

Together, these measures will not only bring more transparency to our communities, but perhaps more importantly, it will reduce the size of the Commission.

Other Questions & Suggestions for increased Transparency:

Public Information

- 1) All of the pilot projects and studies should be public information for continued assurance of success. (ei. Water Use Efficiency Projects)
- 2) Notification of Local Government and Public Involvement: All public notices should be made in English and in the main ethnic language of the surrounding community (ei. Spanish, Vietnamese, etc.). This notification will help to ensure that the all community members are aware of the upcoming change(s) that will be taking place in their area.

Watershed Programs

Still to be fully addressed is how the existing SWRCB Watershed activities will be linked to the 'Local Workgroups' (or whatever other local entity may result).

Water Quality Program

The linked roles of DPR, CDFA, SWRCB and RWRCBs need to be more clearly defined, including their relationship to the different Watershed Groups.

Mitigation Costs

What entity will assess the costs of relocation and job training? Once the cost is assessed, who will bear it?

It is important to weigh these costs against the benefits that any project will have on a community, especially when a large workforce is involved.